

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SES:LSELL:BCM

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APPROVED BY EUR/SES:CGSTEFAN

EUR/EE - M VANHEUVEN (DRAFT)

CU/EE - G CORIDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: AMATEUR YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS

1. DEPT HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN YOUTH PERFORMS, INC. (AYP) WHICH IS HANDLING TOURS IN ROMANIA BY A NUMBER OF YOUTHFUL US AMATEUR PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS. AYP HAS BEEN UNSATISFIED BY FAILURE OF ROMANIANS (ONT/CARPATI) TO FULFILL PORTIONS OF THEIR CONTRACT CONCERNING QUALITY OF ACCOMMODATIONS AND OTHER SERVICES WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE US PERFORMERS. AYP FEELS IT HAS LEGITIMATE GROUNDS FOR REQUESTING REPAYMENT FROM THE ROMANIANS FOR THOSE CONTRACTED SERVICES NOT RENDERED. TO REINFORCE ITS POSITION AYP WITHHELD \$5,000 PAYMENT DUE ROMANIANS FOR A US GROUP CURRENTLY IN ROMANIA, THE PEARL HIGH SCHOOL (PHS) GROUP FROM NASHVILLE, TENN.

2. ON AUGUST 14 AYP WAS NOTIFIED BY ROMANIANS THAT IF FULL PAYMENT FOR PHS IS NOT SENT, ITS TOUR WILL BE TERMINATED ON AUGUST 17. PHS HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO LEAVE ROMANIA ON AUGUST 27. AYP IS SENDING \$2,000 TO ROMANIA

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IMMEDIATELY, WITH A REQUEST THAT PHS BE ALLOWED TO

COMPLETE ITS TOUR, IN SPITE OF CONTRACT DIFFICULTIES.

AYP HOPES TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE DURING A MEETING IN
NEW YORK CITY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ONT IN SEPTEMBER.

3. AT ITS DISCRETION EMBASSY MAY RAISE THIS MATTER WITH
APPROPRIATE ROMANIAN OFFICIALS. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO
ENTER INTO THE LEGALITIES OF THE CONTRACT DISPUTE,
EMBASSY MIGHT POINT OUT THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO
SOLVE THIS PROBLEM AMICABLY AND WITHOUT MAKING THE
YOUNG AMERICANS OF PHS SUFFER FOR A SITUATION NOT OF
THEIR CREATION. EMBASSY COULD ALSO ADD THAT PRECIPITOUS
ACTION BY THE ROMANIANS COULD HAVE UNFAVORABLE IMPACT
ON ENTIRE PROGRAM OF ROMANIAN TOURS BY YOUTHFUL US
PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS. FORCED, EARLY DEPARTURE OF PHS
WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LESSEN INCLINATION OF US ORGANIZERS
AND GROUPS TO ENGAGE IN SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE,
THEREBY DRYING UP WHAT HAS BEEN ATTRACTIVE GAINER OF
HARD CURRENCY FOR THE ROMANIANS. IN ADDITION, IF PHS
IS SENT HOME FROM ROMANIA EARLY, THE INCIDENT WOULD
UNDOUBTEDLY APPEAR IN THE US PRESS. RESULT WOULD BE
SOME VERY UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR ROMANIA AND THE
NEGATION OF THE GOODWILL ENGENDERED EARLIER THIS SUMMER
BY CEAUSESCU'S RECEPTION OF ANOTHER YOUTHFUL US GROUP.

ROGERS

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